The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

April 2011 Volume 7, Issue 04 Copyright RCT

From The Editor...

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2: Minutes
PAGE 7: N7OMS
PAGE 9: St. Patty's
PAGE 10: Sparky
PAGE 16: April LID?

April showers bring May flowers…

But this is getting to be a bit much! Maybe these long gloomy spring(s) are going to be a long-term thing… I hope not, but I still remember last spring and into summer when it was so wet way into June.

Speaking of June, the RCT is going to be having a few interesting things happening in June. The annual picnic and Field day as well as a special event to be run from the picnic site on Saturday June 11th to participate in the K7K special event!

This is being spearheaded by Rich KR7W and we will be on the air from the picnic site at the Spanaway park. It should be a a lot of fun for those who participate. Come on down and be at the other end of the pile-up for a change!

Then let's not forget the RCT Field Day to be held June 26-26. Jay Leatham KD7DKY is the chairman for this event. Contact Jay for details or to volunteer to be a band captain!

As the spring comes near, (finally!) and the year's DX and contest season comes to a close, it is now time to asses our stations and think about what should be done to prepare for the next year. Now even if all you do is ragchew on Forty or Eighty meters, its still a good thing to go out and look at your antennas to see if they are all still there and functioning! Don't laugh… sometimes I think that nobody ever even thinks about maintenance where antennas are concerned.

I too, have this malady. My antenna (singular) has taken a real beating from the wind this winter. I'll be taking it down soon and re-doing it again. Simple tasks but even wire wears out and support ropes break…

Anyone who visits radio WG7X would laugh at my sorry imitation of an antenna, but in the last month, I've actually scored two new countries, Liberia, and Tunisia!

It goes to show you that you never know what might be drifting in on the ether!

Remember, come to the meetings, and see the other folks in the club. !

73, Gary WG7X

Board Meeting
2 March 2011

The March 2nd 2011 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President: Al Churchill AC7BU
Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ
Board Member: Si Nelsen – KA7AQT
Board Member: Crystal Quamme – K7XK

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 11names on the attendance roster.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: None reported.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson KD4VOM

Correspondence: Larry reported membership renewals, property tax bills, and bank statements.

Minutes: **A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the 2 March meeting as coordinated and corrected.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Purdom AD7LJ

Bob circulated the February financial report indicating an income of $ 5,737.00 and expenses of $ 1,109.48. A copy of the February monthly financial summary is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: President Gary reported the membership is estimated at around 280.

Hamfest: Larry KD4VOM reports that Hamfest planning is coming along normally. He recommends using a general membership meeting "program" as a vehicle for promoting the Clubs Hamfest and to solicit and make Hamfest duty assignments..

Repeater Committee: - No Report

Field Day: - **No Report**.

Property Management: - **No Report**

Library Committee: Doug Oakman, AD7AV
Presented the Library report which included the near completion of the binding of our final set of hard copy BARK newsletters; and the significant progress being made inventorying the some 800 plus documents in the W7BUN Jerry Seligman Manual Collection. Future projects include improving the documentation and protection of our historical artifacts, including our fragile and faded original ARRL Charter actually signed by Hiram Maxim issued 27 August, 1920/

HF Radio Room Operations: No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Bylaws Revision: Pending: Peter AD7EU reports that he has had no feedback on the bylaws revision and he can proceed to formalize what he has.

Peter Baker AD7EU circulated an early draft of the club Bylaws with preliminary markups.

Financial Account Audit: Pending
The President needs to appoint a financial account auditing committee to complete the audit required by the Bylaws. Former treasurers' Pat Wingerter WT7N and Chuck Kemmer AC7QN were suggested as possible candidates to conduct the audit.

Annual Budget Planning: Pending
There was a discussion of the Clubs responsibility to conduct annual budget planning and meet their fiduciary responsibilities under the law.

Membership Meetings:
There was a brief discussion of the general membership meeting issue, and reported that at the 23 March membership meeting the sense of the attendees was to keep the two meeting a month plan. Larry – KD4VOM wrote part of an article on the subject which is incorporated into the next BARK.

Rookie Roundup:
Although Nick K7MO was unable to attend, he has announced that other committment have made it impossible for him to manage the Rookie program this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Property and Library Management: Doug Oakman AD7AV opened a discussion of some recent disconnects in our handling of donated property, caused in part by confusion existing between the Library Policy document and the Property Management Standard Operating Procedure – both approved by the Board over the past several years. These disparities have resulted in the sale of valuable donated documents by the Property Manger which would have been retained by the Library had they been aware of the donation.

President Gary WG7X appointed Doug Oakman AD7AV Head Librarian, and Frank Palmer AC7JY Property Manger to research and evaluate what changes need be made to resolve these discrepancies in favor of the Radio Club of Club of Tacoma's best interests; and to present their recommendations to the Board for consideration and action.

Fund Raising Project: Al Ferguson N7OMS presented information on a possible fund raising opportunity associated with Joeseppi's Italian restaurant. Owner Joe Stortini has a program where organizations may profit by setting up a "Take Over" which entails reserving the restaurant for a 4pm to 8 pm period (and providing your own serving and bussing volunteers), There is a sliding scale of percentage of the total take (excluding alcohol sales) and at 100 attendees the percentage to the group is 20% of all sales..

President Gary appointed a committee; Al Ferguson, Andrew Quamme K7ASQ and Himself to explore this possibility further and report back to the Board.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Radio Club of Tacoma Planning:
President Gary provided a list of key club events and activities for the coming year many of which need managers/coordinators.

Jim Kirkreit Picnic
Al Churchill AC7BU volunteered to chair this year's picnic.
Larry KD4VOM has made reservations for Spanaway Park on June 11th, Rich KR7W has agreed to set up the Bunny Hunt, and in addition has set up a Special Events Station K7K for the Kirkreit Picnic and we will have an HF station operating. Here's the Kirkreit Picnic K7K Special Event Info:
Jun 11, 1800Z-2330Z, K7K/W7DK, Tacoma, WA. Radio Club of Tacoma. 14.265 14.055. QSL. Radio Club of Tacoma, W7DK, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Jim Kirkreit Memorial Picnic is held every summer by the Radio Club of Tacoma to honor Jim for his lifetime of promoting Amateur Radio, for being club president many years, and his liking of picnics. This year's special event hopes to honor Jim even more with this special event station set up at the annual picnic. 2011 is also the 95th Anniversary of the Club.

Field Day
Jay Leatham KD7DKY has volunteered to chair this year's Field Day.

Hamfest
Most of last year's team will continue this year's Hamfest, Larry KD4VOM, Al K7HW and Rick KE7EMW. Maury W7OT is joining the crew to handle Hamfest task assignments. The major vacancy here is a manager for the Hamfest Snack Bar. We still need someone to take on this important job…Contact Larry KD4VOM.

W7DK @the Fair

Last year's crew, under the leadership of Stephen AD7AB did great job. Stephen has agreed to chair the group again this year. Crystal K7XK has offered to help again this year.

Salmon Run

Al N7OMS, Gary WG7X, Rich KR7W and others made last year's Salmon Run an operational and financial success. Al needs someone to handle the mailing and pledge operations this coming year. Please contact Gary WG7X or Al N7OMS.

W7DK Holiday Banquet

Jim Mendenhall KE7WHN and Greta KF7SKW did a bang up job at last year's banquet. There were several who believe moving the banquet to a noon 1pm time frame would be better.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm

General meeting minutes
9 March 2011 MINUTES

The 9 March 2011 Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President: Al Churchill AC7BU
Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board: Frank Palmer -- AC7JY
Board: Si Nelsen – KA7AQT

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 42 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Gary WG7X

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Crystal Quamme K7XK is reported recovering well from a cold

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Volunteer Examiner's Report: John Clarke AC7WW provided reports for two recent VE Sessions:

Stephen, AD7AB conducted a two day Technician class at the Tacoma Fire Department Training Center located on the tide flats. Saturday March 5th five VE's from the Radio Club of Tacoma held a testing session. Nineteen exam elements were graded with ten being passed.

Results of the exams were eight new Technicians and one candidate also passed both element two and element three to become a General.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Gregg, KF7BAO Joe, K7ZG Steve, AD7AB

Mike, AD7TH

The Tuesday evening, March 8th VE testing session at the Radio Club of Tacoma was attended by eight candidates and eleven Volunteer Examiners. Eight elements were graded and all were passed.

Results of the session were three new Technicians and five upgrades to General.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Joe, W7RQ	Steve, AD7VL
Jan, K7HTU	Gregg, KF7BAO
John, AD7AW	Rich, KK7VH
Jim, N7RHX	Joe, K7ZG
Steve, AD7AB	Bob, AD7LJ

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, April 12, 2011.

Education and Training: Stephen Morton AD7AB

Reports declining candidates for Technician courses.

Stephen announces a General Class will begin in April running two nights a week for several weeks and testing in May. A new General Class ARRL manual and question pool begins in July so its time to tackle the coursework and examination before the game changes.

Membership: Leonard KA7NWF reminded all that the grace period for membership renewal expires the end of March. Frank AC7JY announced that he has membership cards at the reception table for many who have already renewed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Amateur Radio 440 MHz Spectrum Defense: HR 607 proposes to auction off some of the Amateur Radio 440 MHz spectrum. The ARRL and other amateur organizations are opposing this House Resolution as stated in its present form. The ARRL is our National Organization and without whom all amateurs would have surely lost more band access over the years since its establishment by Hiram Percy Maxim. Larry KD4VOM provided information links to the ARRL site where sample letters, more information on the House Resolution, and who to send your personal letters in opposition to this resolution. The ARRL recommends sending letters and e-mails to their Lobby organization for personal delivery to the various congressional representatives. All info can be found at the ARRL/HR607 website.

Mike and Key Hamfest: Frank AC7JY and his team are running a W7DK vendor table at this year's Hamfest and are soliciting some help loading and unloading the gear for the Mike and Key fest – Contact him if you can help.

Gary McAdams WG7X made several announcements:

Field Day: Jay Leatham KD7DKY has volunteered to be Field Day Chairman.

Open House 12March: No Open House, most are attending Mike and Key Hamfest.

CQ WW DX Contest: Coming – another opportunity to get on the air…

Embroidery Work: Mike W7XTZ announced his XYL's embroidery business, hats, call signs, club logos custom sewing, and even personalized ceramic cups… He has catalogs available at the refreshment area.

SHOW AND TELL:

Lynn -- WR7G brought a **4-1000A Tube** positive anode tube where plate voltages were near 5,000 volts capable of 1 to 2 kw plate dissipation. Here's a description from the internet:

The 4-1000A / 8166 is intended for use as an amplifier, oscillator, or modulator and is capable of efficient operation well into the VHF range..

Cooling of the tube is accomplished by radiation from the plate and by circulation of forced-air through the base and around the envelope. Cooling can be simplified through the use of a SK-510 Air-System Socket and its accompanying glass chimney.

Rich – KR7W announced their team were **Salmon Run winners** again last year Rich – KR7W talked a bit about Saturday's **Mike and Key Swapmeet** – What's Hot and What's Not… and some thoughts on buying mikes Motorola vs GE; Old components may be hard to find; and the recent **CQ article on a dipole PSK31 Antenna in the Attic**.

Rich – KR7W also showed off his recent acquisition of a 1961 vintage **6 meter Clegg AM 5 Watt Rig** . There is activity on the 6 meter band'

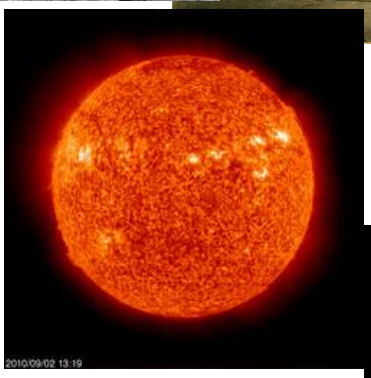
HINTS AND KINKS: This portion of the meeting discussed running a linear amplifier program, and included a recommendation to Google Search for "Ameritron 811A" Here's one link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OT1UaCrVvd4

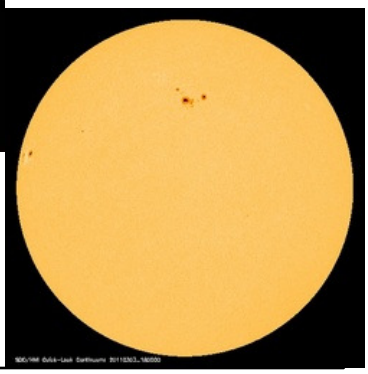
PROGRAM: Tonight's program was a reprise of the CQ Magazine's Getting Started in DXing / "Bitten by the DX Bug" video presentation.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE: MIIKE – KB7STO won the handy multi-tool, while Leonard – KA7NWF walked away with the MFJ Tuner.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm





IT CAME FROM OUT OF THE ATTIC!... PART DEUCE!

It came from out of the attic! Just how corny can you get?

I admit that after my article came out in the 2010 April edition of the Logger's Bark I was somewhat peeved. The editor with that single stroke of his pen turned my breaking news story into a joke. My visions of winning some major acclaim for getting the word out on what may well have been murder most foul were dashed.

Ok, ok some of the blame is mine. I should not have submitted the article for the April issue. The April fool turned out to be me. However after a few days my thoughts began swinging the other way. What if someone like Madam Hawk Face's boss was interested in the outcome of what we found in the Club's attic. Was I being watched? Were those clicks on my phone line more than just clicks on the line? I quickly went from peeved to paranoid. Started watching the cars going thru the neighborhood, checking my rear view mirror twenty times a minute when in the car. Still the days went by and nothing happened.

That would have been the end of it if not for a work party at the club house. I was going through some old papers looking for club manuals to be included in the club's new Jerry Seligman manual collection. It was just a club roster from 1965. I remembered Hans and wondered if he was in the roster. Just a quick look I told myself so to the G's I went and there he was Gruber, Hans, 5121 S Junett St, Tacoma. Why that was over by Bruce's home! Ok, more information to feed my paranoia. I told myself that this was the end of it, I was just being crazy. It had to stop there!

It was a Wednesday several weeks later that I was sitting in front of Bruce's house on Junett. I was too early to go knocking on his door. We were going to grab a bite before the Club meeting. How about a little walk, I thought, just down the block a bit then back. I headed south and next thing I know I was looking at 5121 S Junett. Must have be staring for several minutes when I heard a voice behind me that made me jump. Turning around I saw an older man sitting on his front porch looking at me.

"I'm Sorry!" , I said.
"Are you interested in that house?" he asked.

It was then I saw the for sale sign that pointed to Hans' home.

"Uh, somewhat…" I said.
" Well come on up and sit a spell and I will tell you what I know."

He said his name was Steve and I judged him to be in his 60's. Been living in this house all my life he says and likely end my days here too. What luck I thought. Told him that I was a member of the Radio Club of Tacoma and did he remember a Hans Gruber that lived across the street. He spent a moment thinking and then told me what follows.

"It seems that Hans and his family moved into that house in the early 60's. Before the World's Fair he said. Mostly remember the daughter. She was pretty with her dark hair and deep brown eyes. She took after the mother Steve said. Which was good cause Han's was very pale and spoke with a heavy German accent. I remember the first time I really noticed the mother was at a block party she and the daughter Greta danced the tango. It was quite a sight: Them in their fancy tango costumes. They got me to dance with Greta and we had a fine time."

"My father and hers were at odds at first cause his radio was always messing with my dad watching TV. That changed when dad found out that Hans made homebrew beer. After that they spent many weekends making beer in Han's garage. Still remember Dad and Hans lining up all those little brown bottles and me and Greta manning the bottle capper. They even let us have a taste or two and I don't think I ever had any better beer than those few glasses."

At this point Steve went quiet and I thought that was the end of it. But after several minutes' he began speaking again...

"It was the year I turned 16 and my dad and I had been working on an old dodge pickup after dinner. It was to be my first vehicle. I was very proud and was looking forward to taking Greta for a ride after I turned 16. But that ride never happened."

" What did happen?" I asked

" Well we were just cleaning up after testing the engine on that old Dodge when we saw Hans pulling a wagon and Greta carrying something in her arms. The look on Greta's face told me that this was not going to be good news."

Hans said: " We have to move! We both thought you might like these things."

Steve continues:

"I was in shock. Hans said something about moving for work and Greta just handed me the book she was carrying and hugged me very hard then turned to go. Before I can even think about what I am doing, I pulled Greta into my arms and kissed her. It was my first kiss:"

After that statement, Steve went quiet again but after a brief pause I asked: "what was the book?"

"Oh that, it was a book on Argentine Tango in Spanish." said Steve.

After that Steve seemed distracted and I got ready to leave. He did tell me that after Hans and Greta went back to their house a big black limo came and took the family away. The next day the movers came and took everything. Including Hans' tower and antenna's.

End of story right?

Well I certainly would have believed so and at this point I would have hoped so too.

Sue and I were spending a couple of days down on the California coast just south of Monterey. We were going to attend the Monterey Birding Festival but wanted to sight see a bit before the Festival.

We were at a small B&B in Cambria when I saw a sign that pointed inland to "Pies at Linn's Bakery." I am all in favor of pies so off we went. I'm glad I didn't see the sign on the way out to Linn's because they do have good pie and what I saw on the way back into town may have caused me not to even get any pie!

Even taking this picture may have been a risk but the people have to know!

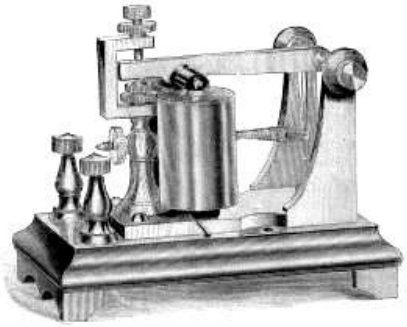
Just what took place in the clubs attic?

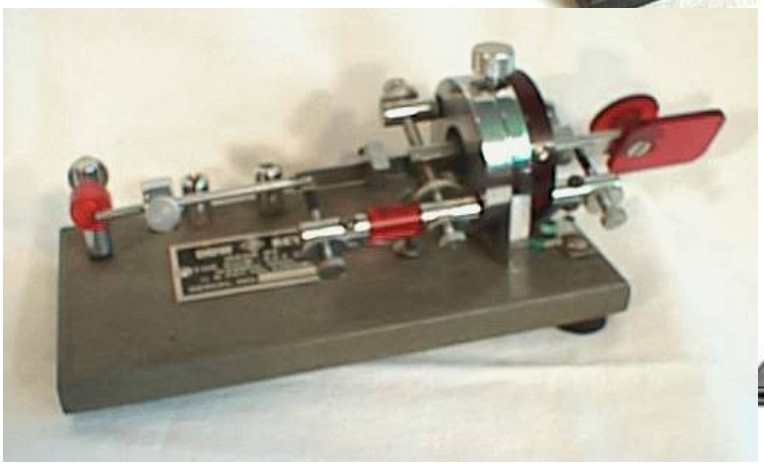
Was it Foul murder or an experiment gone horribly wrong?

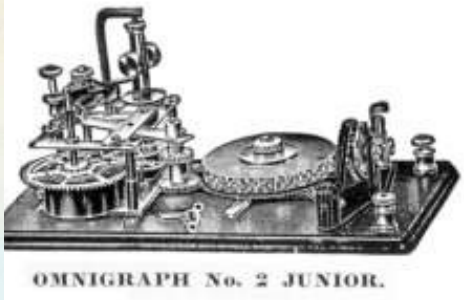
I didn't spend any more time than it took to take this picture so I don't know if any antennas where visible and I don't want to know. I have been a nervous wreck since then. Sue thinks I am a little off my rocker. She says there are probably thousands of Gruber's in the world. Why would that place be our Hans' home? Maybe but just maybe we shouldn't take the risk. Maybe we should just outlaw CW!

Why take the chance that Hans completed his experiments in weaponized CW. But then if CW is outlawed then only outlaws will use CW!

Byline: AL N7OMS







OMNIGRAPH No. 2 JUNIOR.

Dateline: April 2011

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more…

Sparky's *welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*

- Legacy photo
- Around the Club
- ARRL and such
- Attaboys
- View from the Shack

Legacy Photo

Field Day isn't that far away, here's a photo of an RCT Field Day antenna raising innovation, from the 1948 Field Day

Around the Club…

Spring is in the air (somewhere between the raindrops) and things at the Club are perking along, taking advantage of the longer days. Rich — KR7W has kicked off some Saturday Morning Seminars, the first addressed the PSK31 Digital Mode and drew a sizeable crowd for the presentation. Here's a few snaps of the event .

The "Last Saturday" Open House was a beehive of activity. Besides the usual hot dogs and chili, Rich presented a standing room only seminar on Multi-pathing, what it is and how do deal with it. Frank AC7JY and the Property

Management team had multiple items up for the Mini Swap Meet. Nearly 50 folks signed the attendance roster.

Al Churchill AC7BU has agreed to take on the annual Kirkreit Picnic which is scheduled for Saturday, June 11th at Spanaway Park, shelter "D". This year, in

Station K7K in honor of Jim Kirkreit K7YLM (SK), picnic advocate, past president (93/94)and active member of the club for years. There will be an HF station set up and with the Special Event status, we should see a good deal of activity.

If you haven't paid your membership dues, the grace period has ended (March 31st). You missed getting your name on the annual club roster, but of course you really should send in your renewal to keep the lights on and support the club that this year celebrates its 95th anniversary...

ARRL...and such...

CONVERSATION

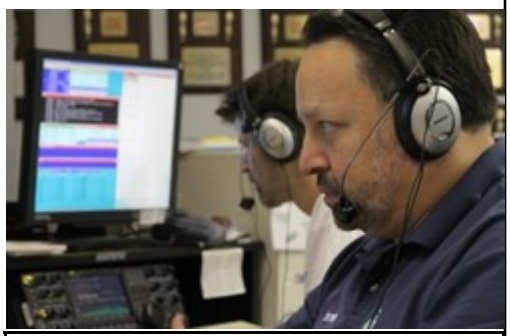
Welcome Back!

I don't know about you, but my reaction to the electrifying conditions during the ARRL DX Phone contest was a huge sigh of relief. To hear 10 meters full of signals - strong signals! - to well above 28.500 MHz filled an empty spot in my radio heart that I'd nearly despaired of ever seeing filled again.

Oh sure, I love the low bands and chase gray line DX with all the enthusiasm of the next guy but those bottomless bands of 10 and 15 meters when the F2 layer lights up...well, there's nothing quite like it. We just missed the big openings during the ARRL DX CW contest - you could feel the band trying its best, leaking a little signal from the biggest stations through path closed for years. On Saturday, the dam began to crack. On Sunday, the floodgates opened!

On the East Coast where I was operating we found ourselves competing to get through to Europe. I have never been so pleased to get beaten out by the 9s and Øs! Out west, call signs from the Land of the Rising Sun filled high-band logs that had been empty for a long time. South American stations pounded in from sunrise to way past sunset. Short skip, long skip, even a smidgen of long path made an appearance.

We've been telling the new hams about the wonders of DX contesting without all the massive QRM on 20 meters and down. I'm sure they were beginning to think we were barmy or at least telling some tales. Here was the opening act for several dramas to come, when 10 and 15 swell nigh on to busting at the seams with signals nearly any station can log.



Ramon XE1KK found 10 meters to be a very active band at K3LR with the solar flux so high. Well done, amigo! (Photo from K3LR)

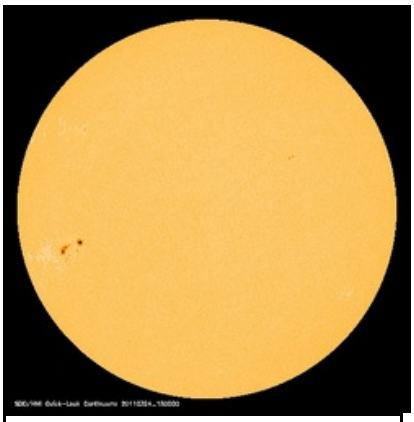
Just two months ago, we were wondering if Cycle 24 was going to flop back into the solar ocean like a spent booster, remember? Black humor made the rounds - not only was the solar minimum past, but the maximum, too! Argggh

To be sure, there will be quiet periods and disturbed days when it seems the sunspots have evaporated once again, but not for long.

So the Big Bass Bongo has been beaten and the Palos Verde Sundancers have danced their propagation dance. The Sun has heard their siren song and sung its own verses in response. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

73, Ward NØAX

Solar Update



The Sun, as seen on Thursday, March 24, 2011 from NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope. This MDI (Michelson Doppler Imager) image was taken in the continuum near the Ni I 6768 Angstrom line. The most prominent features are the sunspots. This is very much how the Sun looks in the visible range of the spectrum.

Tad "The Earth turns, the Sun burns, but I die without you" Cook, K7RA, reports: For the second week in a row, all solar indicators were lower. The average daily sunspot numbers declined more than 28 points from the week before to 40.9, while the average daily solar flux was off more than 18 points to 94.8. But looking at solar images from the STEREO mission, we can see a great deal of activity about to rotate toward us over the Sun's eastern horizon. The whole "back" side of our Sun looks very busy. The NOAA forecast for March 23 for the planetary A index and solar flux still is not available, but the March 22 forecast sees solar flux for March 24-31 at 110, 115, 120, 120, 120, 125, 130 and 135. The planetary A index for the same period is predicted at 8 for March 24-25, 5 on March 26-27 and 8 on March 28-31. This indicates improving HF propagation for the near term, with geomagnetic indicators slightly unsettled, compared to recent quiet conditions. NASA has a video explaining the very low sunspot activity over the past few years. Look for more information on the ARRL website on Friday, March 25. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by the song *Without You* from the musical *Rent*.

Public Service: Amateurs Assist with Ocean Rescue

At 10:04 AM PDT on March 21, Rex Weinheimer, KC5AGO, of Stonewall, Texas -- a member of the Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) -- heard and responded to a "weak and broken MAYDAY call." The call was from the sailing vessel *Gloria Jean*, a 30 foot sailboat that was in the Pacific Ocean about 120 miles west of Ensenada, Mexico. Weinheimer heard the distress call on 14.300 MHz, a frequency monitored by the MMSN.

MMSN Net Controller Lee Langford, KG4DZN, told the ARRL that through the combined efforts of several net stations, the net was able to ascertain the

situation and the position of the stricken vessel. MMSN operators contacted both the US and Mexican Coast Guards and both services deployed assets to the scene. The US Coast Guard dispatched an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from San Diego and a C-130 Hercules plane from Sacramento. According to the USCG, the *Gloria Jean* had no propulsion, food, water or safety equipment. Read more here.

An elderly sailor and his dog were rescued off the coast of Ensenada, Mexico after a ham in Texas heard his distress call on 14.300 MHz. In this USCG photo, he is pictured safely aboard Coast Guard helicopter with USCG Petty Officer 2nd Class James Johnson. [USCG Petty Officer 2nd Class Henry G. Dunphy, Photo]

Attaboys:

So many folks contributing so much. It musts be the high pay the club doles out to its volunteers that attract so many devoted hours spent in support of our avocation and organization. This month, its an overdue kudo to Frank AC7JY for his work at the reception desk at all of our meetings, managing the roster, handing out door prize tickets, arranging for door prizes and raffle prizes, as well as welcoming and greeting visitors and members to our meetings. Not to mention arranging for two programs a month… whew!...

From the ARRL "CONTACT" PR NEWSLETTER:

HR-607

Obviously one of the major activities here at ARRL HQ in the past weeks is the opposition to HR 607 as it is currently written. While we have no argument with giving the "D-block" frequencies (some of the old UHF TV frequencies not being used) to emergency responders, we DO have strong objections to another part of the bill, section 207, where it proposes taking away our use of 420 -440 MHz and selling it off to the highest bidder for commercial use. NPSTC, APCO and others involved in emergency responses have agreed with ARRL that section 207 of the bill needs to be changed.

ARRL has created a video about HR-607. You can see it at http://www.arrl.org/hr-607 and at the bottom of the page is a low resolution .wmv file you can download if desired. The full, high resolution files are available by sending me an email – but note that they are just over 1 gigabyte in size. You'll be downloading for a while :-)

…And it has also been posted at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsW5AjS65U0

Major thanks go to Al Petrunti, KA1TCH, who volunteered to work with us in creation of the video.

Meanwhile, Richard Haltermon, KD4PYR, created a website that makes it very easy to develop a letter for your Congressional representative regarding HR-607. This is as easy as it gets folks! Just enter your callsign and it does the rest. It was given a major test at the North Carolina hamfest and SM Bill Morine, N2COP, writes:

"…we used http://www.kd4pyr.net/hamletter.htm to generate HR607 letters this past weekend at the Charlotte Hamfest, and it worked wonderfully."

Please get this info out to clubs and groups.

http://www.kd4pyr.net/hamletter.htm

Send the signed letters to:

John Chwat
Chwat & Co.
625 Slaters Lane
Suite 103
Alexandria, VA 22314

Why send them to Chwat & Co.? - Because since the anthrax mail scare of 2001, all mail to Congress goes through security checks that can delay it for weeks. But John will see that it gets hand delivered in time.

Alan Pitts W1AGP

www.arrl.org

Membership Meetings ? Some thoughts…

At its February 2nd 2011 meeting, the Radio Club of Tacoma Board engaged in a discussion of the Club's membership meeting schedule. The discussion was prompted by many who noted that attending multiple meetings in a month may not be the best arrangement. Nick Winter K7MO said that the Club has had two membership meetings a month as long as he can remember, going back to the 1970s.

The Club Bylaws establish our meeting requirements:

SECTION SIX - MEETINGS

FREQUENCY. Regular meetings of the club shall be held at least once per month at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors with the first club meeting of the month defined as the "Regular Meeting". Special meetings may be called by the President, Board of Directors or on written request of at least five full members at least ten days in advance of the requested time. The Board of Directors or those persons calling for the special meeting shall make every effort to advise the membership of the special meeting. The Annual Meeting of the club shall be the November Regular Meeting to elect officers and transact any other business as may be deemed necessary by the Board or

the membership. Notice of all meetings will be provided in the club newsletter. The Board of Directors shall hold a monthly regular meeting and any necessary special meetings may be called by the President or by request of three (3) Directors.

Thus the traditional second membership meeting we've conducted over the years would technically be called a "Special" meeting, and is not necessarily required.

With all issues there are pros and cons. The pros might include more frequent opportunities to get together to enjoy the programs, show and tell, tuning and traffic, hints and kinks as well as seek help with technical and operating questions. The Cons would include the sense of obligation to attend multiple meetings a month, and the workload on the officers and program managers to insure there is a program for every meeting.

Our meetings usually draw between 30 and 50 of the over 300 members, and as might be expected they tend to be the same 30 to 50 members.

One of the ideas that seems to have traction, is to have seminar type sessions on topics of Ham interest at the Clubhouse on the second Wednesdays, such topics as soldering, installing coax connectors, building simple antennas, learning to operate the HF station, logging, and many more possible focus topics could be offered.

The Board requests your feedback, opinions and recommendations as they consider the advantages and disadvantages of a one membership meeting per month schedule.

Please provide your ideas, recommendations and opinions on this proposal to the Club Secretary Larry KD4VOM at royretreat@mailcan.com, or to any of the Club Officers (Info is on the club website w7dk.org; or by mail to The Radio Club of Tacoma, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411

View from the Shack...

The club could use someone interested in promoting amateur radio, the club and our activities. The ARRL has an excellent Public Relations and Promotion program with extensive support and training materials. Getting the word out, letting folks know who we are and what we do is part of keeping the Club alive and relevant. We already do a lot at the Puyallup Fair and other venues, but a coordinated program with an interested coordinator could do so much more.

If interested, contact the Secretary, KD4VOM at royretreat@mailcan.com

Sparky

"Artificial Intelligence is no match for natural stupidity" *The Disclaimer...*

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.

FCC CHANGES CALL SIGN ASSIGNMENT RULES… reported by K7LID

As most amateurs know… the FCC's rules regarding amateur radio operator call sign assignment eliminates certain prefixes and suffixes. This FCC ruling addresses certain suffixes that now allowed in the assignment of amateur call signs.

Up until Mar 30 of this year the LID suffix was not assignable to any amateur license. Now, because of recent FCC rule changes any amateur can request a call sign, through the Vanity Call Sign Program, that ends in LID.

The FCC's intent is to have amateur radio operators who enjoy being LIDS on the air to advertise their OTA in their call sign… similar to having your initials as your call sign.

Those Wacky LIDS… continued from page 6…

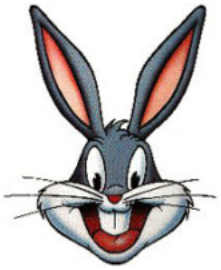
Other LID behaviors noticed are signing off with another ham in a QSO as being "Clear and Listening"… The operating practices on Phone originated from the Morse Code days beginning with ships, the military, and amateurs handing messages. In telegraphy… when an operator sent he was CLEAR… he was done and most shut their equipment OFF. It puzzles me how an amateur operator can be listening if their rig is shut off.

A lot of LIDS get the calling sequence backwards and this makes it difficult to know which voice is attached to which call sign. Example: "KG7UUX with KG7ZZU". Back to telegraphy where the operator called the station he wanted to talk to and then announced his own callsign. This way, when the operator is clear or listening… he can announce his own callsign last. i.e. "KG7UUX this is KG7ZZU clear".

The last one on the list is: On High Frequency there are a lot of 'Tune Ups' on top of QSOs in progress. After the LID is done tuning… they say, "Is this frequency in use?" It is vacant now because the QSO in progress moved away from the interference caused by the LID. END

YEH, YEH, FINE BUSINESS ON YOUR S.O.S. OUT THERE OM - - - - - SOLID COPY - S9 - DIDN'T GET YOUR HANDLE. HANDLE HERE IS CLYDE, CHARLIE, LOVE, YOKOHAMA, DOG - - -

Hidden Transmitter Hunt is May 14 @ High Noon…
by Rich KR7W



Each year CQ Magazine encourages clubs and individuals to put on a hidden transmitter hunt on the second weekend of May. This year Neil WA7NBF and Paul W7PV will host the first hunt of 2011 at Fort Flaggler State Park. The hunt begins at 12:00 PM. Participants are to meet at the Museum Building.

This years hunt will be on foot and encompass the west side of the park… unlike last year where the hunt was within the entire 784 acres and vehicles were needed to find the hidden rabbits before the deadline time. For more info on this hunt… check out the link to Neil's website via the www.w7dk.org website.

The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark

The Logger's Bark **is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*... and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.**

Club Officers

President: Gary McAdams, 253-984-0868, g dot m dot mcadams at Comcast dot net
Vice Pres: Al Curchill AC7BU al74vch at gmail dot com
Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM royretreat at mailcan dot com
Treasurer: Bob Purdom lcdrbob at hotmail dot com

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Lentz, W7AML alentz at centurytel dot net
Crystal Quamme K7XK crystalml2002 at hotmail dot com
Silas Nelson KA7AQT sinelsen at amum dot ups dot edu
Nick Winter K7MO wjnjr at blarg dot net
Frank Palmer AC7JY ac7jy at msn dot com

Logger's Bark Staff

Editor in Chief: "Stop the Presses!!" Gary McAdams, WG7X, thebark@comcast.net
Printer/Publisher: "Start the Presses" John Clarke, AC7WW, 253-475-5854
Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma...
Send articles to: thebark@comcast.net or The Bark, 11405 88th Ct SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org. If a condensed paper copy is needed... then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.
ADVERTISE in the BARK: $60.00 full page, $30.00 half page, $15.00 quarter page, $5.00 business card size. These charges offset the publishing and USPS mailing costs.
Want / For Sale ads are free to members. The Logger's Bark does not verify or guarantee statements in the Want For Sale listings. Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark if Credit line is included in the article.

Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $30 per calendar year. $25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:

APRIL 2011 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays April 13th and 27th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday April 6th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .